



## PARRA NOTES

Friday, July 15

My weekend began in Bakersfield, where on Thursday I attended Congressman **Jim Costa's** new District Office Open House. What a fabulous event it was. I look forward to working with the Congressman and his staff during the district work period. It was also nice to see Delano Mayor **Ruben Hill**, Wasco Mayor **Cherylee Wegman** and **Jay Tamsi** from the **Delano** Filipino organization at the event.

On Friday, I took a tour of **Tejon Ranch** in **Kern County**. Many of you might be familiar with **Tejon Ranch** as it's been in the news lately for the 100,000 acres that have been set aside for a science-based ranch preserve. Unlike most tours I take, this one was by horseback. So let's just say that by the end of the day, I was hurting, but it was well worth it. After the tour, I drove to **Arvin** where I joined **Bear Mountain & Parks District Board Members** (BMPD) **Eddie Garcia**, **Flor Sanchez** and **Stewart Lawson**, BMPD Director. We toured the **Arvin** and **Lamont** community pools which have severely deteriorated over the past few years. I look forward to working with Arvin and Lamont representatives to ensure that these pools are back in working condition. I also plan on holding a meeting with interested parties to help address this very same issue. I will keep you posted with any details.

On Saturday, I hosted a Foster Care Forum at **Cal State University Bakersfield** and then drove over to **Delano** where I attended the **Philippine Weekend Dinner Fashion Show**. I still can't believe that I was asked to model a beautiful red traditional Filipino dress. It was also great to see **Delano** Council Members **Grace Vallejo** and **Leonard Velasco** at the event.

### District Work Period

For the first time in a long time, Members of the Legislature were granted a full district work period. This means that for the next four weeks, I will have the opportunity to work out of the District. During that time I am scheduled to attend several meetings and events. Many are open to the public, so I encourage you to stop by and say hello. Below you will find a few of the events I will be attending. I will keep updating you as more events are scheduled. I hope to see all of you out there.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SHRED AND INFORMATION DAY**

On July 23rd, from noon to 1:00 p.m., I will be attending the Shred and Information Day at F.A.S.T Credit Union in Hanford. This event was created to educate the public on the importance of protecting your private information. F.A.S.T Credit Union is located at 240 N. Irwin St. in Hanford. The public is welcome to attend.

#### **HISPANICS ORGANIZED FOR POLITICAL EQUALITY (HOPE)**

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., I will be joining my HOPE sisters as we recognize "Latinas Leading the Way." This event is open to the public. To RSVP for this event, please contact Blodgie at (661) 319-2763.

### **KINGSBURG STREET FAIR**

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., I will be hosting a booth at the Kingsburg Street Fair located at Memorial Park in Downtown Kingsburg (Corner of Sierra St. and Draper). This event is open to the public.

### **PHILIPPINE WEEKEND PARADE**

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., I will be riding in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Philippine Weekend Parade in Delano. The parade route starts on 8<sup>th</sup> and Main St. in front of Ranch Market. This event is open to the public.

### **THURSDAY NIGHT MARKET**

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., I will be attending Thursday Night Market in Hanford where there will be bands and several booths. This weekly event is located on Irwin St. in Hanford. This event is open to the public.

### Legislation

It was a good legislative week for us in the Capitol as **AB 434** went before the Senate floor and was overwhelmingly passed. I am excited to report that it is now headed to the Governor's desk for his signature.

**AB 706** went before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. It is now headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**AB 434 ESA and HSA Accounts** will conform state law to federal law by authorizing state-chartered credit unions to provide Health Savings Accounts (HSA). State-chartered credit unions already offer similar accounts for other purposes, such as education and retirement, but not for health care. AB 434 goes on to further clarify current law on Education Savings Accounts by amending California Financial Code, Section 14860 to mirror federal regulations.

**AB 706 CSU Whistleblower Protections** will allow the Cal State University system to shield an employee's identity and confidentiality, in order to avoid retaliation when filing a complaint.

\*Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

### Other Highlights

#### **LABOR ADVISORY GROUP**

Today, Friday July 15th, I will be holding a Southern District Labor Advisory Meeting. The meeting will consist of a brief legislative update and a discussion on matters of interest relating to labor. The meeting will take place at the **Kern County Housing Authority** located at 601 24<sup>th</sup> St. in Bakersfield from **9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Should you have any questions regarding this meeting please call Manuel Barrera at (661) 334-3745 or e-mail him at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov.

## **HIGH SPEED RAIL**

I am disappointed to report that among the items the Governor cut from the budget was \$625,000 for the High Speed Rail Authority: \$325,000 of which would have been used to conduct a study of the feasibility of a stop between Fresno and Bakersfield. Though I am disappointed by the Governor's decision, I will continue to work with interested parties on getting the funding allocated in next year's budget.

## **FOSTER CARE FORUM**

As I mentioned earlier, this past Saturday I hosted a Foster Care Forum at **Cal State Bakersfield**. Panelists included representatives from the **Kern County Public Defenders Office**, the **Kern County Department of Human Services**, the **Kern County Building Blocks**, the **Kern Independent Living Program** and **California Youth Connection**. All were wonderful, especially in educating foster youth of their basic rights. The best insight came from foster youth themselves, who taught us more than we expected. With guidance from my office, many of the foster youth have volunteered to organize a Foster Care Conference to be held later this year in Kern County.

## **SUMMER INTERNS WANTED**

I am presently accepting applications for my summer internship program in my Hanford and Bakersfield district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. For more details, please contact Richard Valle at the Hanford office at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov). For Bakersfield office internships please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov)

## **GRANTS**

By late July my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov)

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